

Kentucky Historical Society Executive Committee
Friday, October 21, 2011
Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History
Frankfort, Kentucky Historical Society

Members present: Fred Brashear, Sheila Mason Burton, Marion Forcht, Ruth Korzenborn, Karen McDaniel, Patti Mullins, Nancy O'Malley, Lowell Reese, Robert Rich, Renee Shaw, Nancy Smith, Sue Speed, Louis Stout

Members absent: Bill Bartleman, J. McCauley Brown, Dawn Browning, Verna Fairchild, Mike Hammons, Derrick Hord, John Kleber, David Lee, Brian Mefford, Mike Mullins, Wayne Onkst

Guests present: Marty Pinkston (representing Verna Fairchild); Lindy Casebier, Deputy Secretary, Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet; Dana Cox, Director KHS Foundation; William Dexter, General Counsel, Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet

Staff present: Scott Alvey, Jody Blankenship, Pam Brookman, Lisa Cleveland, Nelson Dawson, Keith Jackson, Louise Jones, Trevor Jones, Darrell Meadows, Linda Redmon, Kent Whitworth, Theresa Young

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order during **Executive Session** by President Robert Rich in the Brown Forman Room at 1:00 pm. **Renee Shaw moved to approve the July 15, 2011 minutes with a second from Louis Stout. The motion was approved.**

Executive Session

During Executive Session, President Rich shared the annual Executive Director evaluation questionnaire/assessment report with the full board. The report has been discussed with Executive Director Kent Whitworth. The second item was a motion made by Renee Shaw with a second by Louis Stout to hire Scott Alvey as Assistant Director of KHS. The motion was approved. KHS will follow the state's personnel procedures through the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet and the Governor's office.

Recognition

Kent Whitworth and Robert Rich expressed appreciation to the outgoing board members for their service and dedication to KHS. From the class of 2011 were Fred Brashear, Ruth Korzenborn, Karen McDaniel (served three years with class of 2010 and an additional year for an unexpired term in 2011), and Lowell Reese (served one year of an unexpired term). Sheila Mason Burton (incoming president) and Kent Whitworth thanked Robert Rich for his service as a board member since November 2003, and particularly as president during 2010 and 2011.

Board Committees

Finance Committee – Sheila Mason Burton & Linda Redmon referred to a chart outlining the current KHS financial status. The 2012 FY budget is \$6.1 million with an unexpended balance of 67% or \$4.1 million. Agency revenues are consistent with FY 2011 with approximately \$153,000 in earned income so far this year. For the FY 2013-2014 biennial budget request due at the end of the month, KHS will request defined calculations to the current baseline budget (defined calculations are rate increases for fixed costs/services) and additional items of critical personnel positions; data storage & equipment; website re-design; and digital media lab-space renovation & equipment.

Personnel Committee – Pam Brookman reported on a draft internal personnel re-alignment plan to further focus human resources on achieving the KHS strategic plan goals. KHS has received approval to hire a digital media specialist position and other personnel actions are pending approval from the Cabinet and Governor's Office.

The KHS employee assessment process should be in place by late fall and used annually as a formal communication tool for employee performance, expectations and outcomes.

Robert Rich noted an employee handbook is in the development stage which he hopes will help make KHS one of the best places to work.

Nominating Committee – Renee Shaw reported on the slate of nominees recommended by the committee. The slate will be presented and voted on at the annual membership meeting on November 11.

Officers

Sheila Mason Burton – President

J. McCauley Brown - 1st Vice President

John Kleber - 2nd Vice President

Brian Mefford - 3rd Vice President

Class of 2013 (Fill unexpired term of Brian Mefford)

Gerry Montgomery, Former Mayor of Paducah

Class of 2015

Constance Alexander, Murray State University

Laurie Risch, Behringer-Crawford Museum - Covington

Judge Tommy Turner, Larue County Judge Executive, Hodgenville

Sharon Withers, DAR, Lexington

Action Items

Kentucky Museum & Heritage Alliance (KMHA) – Jody Blankenship referred to a proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the KMHA and KHS. KMHA provides professional services to its members who represent local historical arts, sciences, and cultural organizations in Kentucky. KHS has an administrative role with KMHA. This updated MOA details and clarifies the responsibilities of the KHS/KMHA partnership and will be beneficial to both organizations. **A motion was made by Sue Speed, seconded by Patti Mullins to approve execution of the agreement. The motion passed.**

Distinguished Service Award – **Following a motion by Marty Pinkston, seconded by Karen McDaniel, the board approved a distinguished service award to Major General Edward Tonini (Kentucky's Adjutant General).** The award is for his unflinching leadership and unwavering support for the major renovations of the historic State Arsenal and by his vision for the future of the Kentucky Military History Museum. The award will be presented to General Tonini at the re-opening events of the arsenal on November 11.

Staff Reports

Major Acquisition – Trevor Jones announced that KHS's newest major acquisition is a gold sword that had been presented to General William Orlando Butler (family of General Butler State Park) by the U.S. President and Congress in 1848. The sword, one of the most significant pieces ever received by KHS, was donated by Dr. Thomas Courtenay and his sister, Mary Ann Courtenay Davidson. This impressive sword has a 3.2 ruby in the crossguard and is one of the best engraved swords made in America. For a cost of \$1,800 the sword was made in 1847. It is one of six swords presented to officers of the Mexican War and the only one held by a public institution. The sword will be premiered at the Abraham Lincoln Society Dinner and will be the featured artifact when the Arsenal reopens on Veterans Day. Trevor invited the board to view the sword after the meeting.

KJHS – Jody Blankenship reported on efforts to reunite the alumni of the Kentucky Junior Historical Society during its 50th anniversary in 2012. Through direct mail, personal contacts and social media, a campaign has begun to reconnect with alumni before the KJHS conference next spring. Past KJHS alumni are encouraged to identify themselves as former members of KJHS, similar to the Governors Scholars Program, to be advocates for history and for the KJHS program statewide. Board members are invited to volunteer at history day events and to promote the KJHS program.

Kentucky History Awards – Jody Blankenship stated the Kentucky History Awards program was reformatted in 2010 and is now held in conjunction with the KHS membership annual meeting. With higher standards required to receive an award and fewer awards granted, KHS received 50 nominations for 17 awards to recognize individuals and institutions for their public work in 2011. A list of winners is in the board packets.

Kentucky History Series Book – Nelson Dawson provided background information on the Kentucky book series project. In 1975 KHS launched a Kentucky history book series project to have four books written and published, one each on the time periods - frontier, 1800-1860, late 19th century, and 20th century. In 1975, George M. Chinn wrote the first book on the frontier. Jim Klotter and Hambleton Tapp co-authored the second book in 1977 on the late 19th century and Jim Klotter published the 20th century book. With a chronological gap in the series, the project was not complete until now. The last book, co-authored by Jim Ramage and his daughter, Andrea Watkins is “Kentucky Rising, Democracy, Slavery, and Culture from the Early Republic to the Civil War” represents up to date scholarship and background material of interpreting and understanding civil war in Kentucky. KHS sponsored the book as a member of the University of Kentucky Press consortium, a group of Kentucky colleges and other organizations that submit manuscripts to be published by the UK Press. This is the first book to be co-published with the UK Press by a member of the consortium. KHS will greatly benefit by this project as well as students of Kentucky history.

Kent Whitworth acknowledged and thanked Nelson Dawson for his work as primary editor of the book.

KHS Foundation – Dana Cox presented an overview of the fiscal year fundraising. Currently, the KHS Foundation annual fund has received \$54,373 toward a goal of \$250,000 with 182 donors of which 28 are new donors. The annual fund supports operating costs and annual programming at KHS. With a goal of \$10,000, a recent direct mail piece stands at \$9,900. Ms. Cox invited members to attend the annual Abraham Lincoln Society Dinner on Monday, October 24. The event has changed from a gala to a dinner with this year’s focus on a civil war history related theme in honor of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Dr. Tom Courtenay, his sister Mary Ann Courtenay Davidson, and the Ky Veterans Trust Fund will be inducted as new Society members. The keynote speaker will be Dwight Pitcaithley PhD, former chief historian of the National Park Service. The event is a major fundraiser for the Libby Jones Scholarship fund to support school group visits to KHS.

Old Business

KentuckyShow – Robert Rich gave an update on his communication with KentuckyShow representatives Sharon Potter and Andy Beshear regarding their proposal to use KHS as a second venue for the KentuckyShow production. The KentuckyShow board would not accept a condition by KHS to edit the film on the aspect of strip mining in eastern Kentucky due to the costs and that the production is scheduled to be updated in 2014. In addition, the KentuckyShow would not accept a three year licensing agreement in place of their five year proposal, again due to their need for revenue. A discussion followed on (1) whether it is in the best interests of KHS to pursue the KentuckyShow proposal, particularly whether it would be a positive or negative to solicit financial support through the legislature in partnership with the KentuckyShow; (2) the historical and interactive nature of future KHS visitor experiences, and (3) and the importance of digital infrastructure being a core component of future budget requests. **A motion was made by Karen McDaniel that the Kentucky Historical Society is not in a position at this time to pursue the partnership. Nancy Smith seconded. The motion passed. President Rich will communicate the board’s vote to the KentuckyShow board president Sharon Potter.**

Kentucky Folklife Program – Kent Whitworth updated the board on the proposed transition of the Kentucky Folklife program from KHS to Western Kentucky University. Due to the FY 2011 budget reduction plan and the program not being central to the KHS mission, the folklife program’s budget of approximately \$150,000 is being funded with non general fund dollars. KHS cannot fund the program after this fiscal year (ending June 30, 2012.) Western Kentucky University is interested in administering the program and is actively pursuing the additional financial support that would be required. KHS and the Kentucky Arts Council turned to WKU because of the longstanding national reputation of its Folk Studies program. WKU already has in place much of the infrastructure and support to sustain the program. The Ky Arts Council will continue to maintain a presence in the folk and traditional arts.

In response to a question on alternatives if WKU declines to transition the program, Kent Whitworth answered that Berea College, Morehead University or the city of Berea are possible options. In his opinion, an independent non-profit would have great difficulty sustaining the Kentucky Folklife program. It may be necessary to review the KHS statutes once the transition location is finalized.

New Business

Re-opening of KMHM & Candlelight Tour—Lisa Cleveland described events for the re-opening of the Kentucky Military History Museum at the state arsenal on Veterans Day, November 11, 2011. In addition to the ribbon-cutting ceremony will include Major General Fairchild as master of ceremonies, special guests, and a local school children's choir. The annual downtown Frankfort candlelight tour will be held November 10, 11, & 12 and normally attracts nearly 2,000 to the KHS campus. As part of the events, KHS will host at the Old State Capitol several authors from the Kentucky Book Fair.

Hall of Governors – Robert Rich announced a joint ad hoc committee consisting of staff members, historians, and board members to discuss exhibition development processes. Focusing on the new Hall of Governors exhibition, the meeting will be an educational session for the board to better understand the staff's decision making process. Appointed to the committee will be Robert Rich, John Kleber, Richard Taylor, Sheila Mason Burton, Mac Brown, Trevor Jones, Scott Alvey, Sara Elliott, and Kent Whitworth. Outcomes from the discussion will be reported back to the full board.

Kent Whitworth distributed window clings that identify being a KHS member and asked the board to show support for KHS by displaying the clings in their vehicles.

Robert Rich thanked all the Executive Committee members again for their service to KHS.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.